

work, being often beautifully veined. The bark is used by tanners and leather dressers, as well as dyers: and charcoal made from the wood of this tree is highly estimated for the manufacture of gunpowder. Virgil mentions it as furnishing the materials for boats or canoes, which were formed out of its hollowed trunk. Its name is derived from the Celtic *al*, *near*, and *lan*, the *river bank*. "The alders dank that fringe the pool," bears blossoms similar to the hazel; the barren flowers are collected into a catkin or pendulous spike, and contains four stamens in each, and the fertile flowers are much smaller, oval, and imbricated all round, with deep red scales; the leaves of the tree are roundish, wedge-shaped, obtuse and cut at the edges. Upon withdrawing our attention from this tree, we cast our eyes upon the moist and shady banks out of which it springs, and there we often behold large patches of the

COMMON GOLDEN SAXIFRAGE.

(*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*.)

Class, Decandria. Order, Digynia; N. O. Saxifragæ

THIS little plant delights in wet shady situations, its little blossom-stalks are about three inches high, bearing a cluster of pale yellow flowers at the top, the leaves are situated opposite on the

stem, from which circumstance it derives its specific name. It is very common, and patches of it often extend for several feet. We have also another species not so frequently seen, with the leaves alternately placed on the stem; it grows in the same situations, is rather higher in growth, and of a darker colour. The name is derived from the Greek words *gold* and *spleen*, a disease for which the plant was supposed to be a cure.

From the banks of the streamlet we turn our footsteps to the wood, where we find another little plant of a paler hue, springing under the shelter of the bushes, called the

TUBEROUS MOSCHATELL.

(*Adoxa moschatellina*.)

Class, Octandria. Order, Tetragnia. N. O. Araliaceæ.

We often pass this unobtrusive little plant unnoticed, although when once discovered, we are glad to have an opportunity to pick it whilst sauntering in the sylvan shade, and repeatedly to examine its formation.

"A bonnie wee flower grew green in the wuds,
Like a twinkling wee star among the cluds!
And the langer it levit the greener it grew,
For 'twas lulled by the winds, and fed by the dew.
Oh! fresh was the air where it reared its head,
Wi' the radiance and odour its youngleaves shed."